

TENNESSEE BOARD OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS AND SCIENCES

DATE: October 29, 2019

TIME: 10:00 A.M., CDT

LOCATION: Health Related Boards
Poplar Room
665 Mainstream Dr
Nashville, TN 37243

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Velvet Buehler, Chair, Au.D Audiologist
Carrie Crittendon, Au.D, Audiologist
Carren Mills, Speech Pathologist
Richard Morton, Citizen Member
Ellen Pearson, Speech Pathologist
Debby Starr, Au.D, Audiologist

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: David Haynes, MD, Otolaryngologist

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:
Michele Tamayo, Board Administrator
Teddy Wilkins, Unit Director
Ashley Fine, Assistant General Counsel

Ms. Velvet Buehler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A roll call was conducted and a quorum was present.

Ms. Wilkins introduced Carren Mills, the new Board Member, a Speech Pathologist from Maryville.

Review/Approve Board Meeting Minutes

Upon review of the August 6, 2019 minutes, Mr. Morton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Starr, to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Financial Report

Butch Jack with the Division of Licensure and Regulation gave the following Fiscal Year-End Report: For the year 2019 Payroll Expenditures totaled \$79,909.40, Other expenditures including Travel, Communications and so forth totaled \$19,133.32, for a Total Direct Expenditure of \$99,042.72. Allocated Expenditure closed as follows; Administration \$29,021.56, Investigations \$9,963.79, Legal \$8,608.13, Cash Office \$1,745.51, giving a total Allocated Expenditures of

\$449,339.00, for a total cost to this board of \$148,381.71. Board fee's generated revenue in the amount of \$185,670.00 for a Current Year Net of \$37,288.29. This board's portion of LARS improvement cost was \$6,163.33, LARS is the computer system we use for applicants to apply online as well as our internal licensing system. This board Cumulative Carry over for 2019 is \$443, 359.10.

Investigative Report

Ms. Lori Leonard, Disciplinary Coordinator for all Non-nursing Boards gave the following report:

Summary of Currently Monitored Practitioners

There are three (3) currently monitored practitioners; one (1) under a Board Order who has been sent to collection for the balance of the Civil Penalties., One (1) under Probation until 2020, and one under Revocation who is making payments on her fee's

Board Statistical Complaint Report

SLP's: There were five (5) new complaints for 2019; two (2) were for falsification of records, One (1) for fraud and false billing and two (2) regarding a lapsed license. A total of four (4) complaints were closed; one (1) closed with insufficient evidence, one (1) closed and sent to the Office of General Council for formal discipline, and two (2) closed with letters of warning. Currently there are five (5) open complaints being investigated and/or reviewed.

Audiologist: There were two (2) new complaints in 2019; one (1) for criminal charges, and one (1) for malpractice and negligence. No closed complaint and there are currently eight (8) open complaints being investigated and/or reviewed at this time.

SLP-A's: No new complaints in 2019, no closed complaints and none opened to be investigated.

OGC Report

Ashley Fine presented the following OGC report;

Ms. Fine read aloud the Conflict of Interest Policy and Open Meeting Act Policy.

Disciplinary Activity

At this time there are no open cases in the Office of General Counsel.

Regarding the internal review process of rules, the governor has implemented a new more robust system of review with additional reviewers and documents being required. This will increase the review time for all rules.

Administrative Report

Michele Tamayo provided the following administrative report:

As of October 23, 2019, there are a total of 459 licensed Audiologists, 2,999 licensed Speech Language Pathologists and 137 registered Speech Language Pathology Assistants.

Between, August 4, 2019 and October 23, 2019

There were Ten (10) newly licensed Audiologists, Zero (0) new audiology Clinical Externs, Zero (0) retired, Four (4) expired, and Zero (0) reinstatements A total of thirty-seven (37) Audiologists renewed, twenty-four (24) of those completed the renewal online, for a percentage of 65%.

There were seventy-seven (77) newly licensed Speech Language Pathologists, fifty-five (55) new Clinical Fellows, nine (9) retired; thirty (30) expired and sixteen (16) reinstatements. Two hundred sixty-eight (268) Speech Pathologists have renewed their licenses; two hundred and eight (208) renewals were completed online for a percentage of 78%.

There were twelve (12) newly registered Speech Language Pathology Assistants, four (4) retired, nine (9) expired, and zero (0) reinstatements. A total of four (4) Speech Language Pathology Assistants renewed their licenses with two (2) renewals completed online for a percentage of 50%.

Ms. Tamayo reviewed the remaining scheduled board meeting dates for 2020.

February 11, 2020
May 5, 2020
August 4, 2020
November, 10 2020

Newly Licensed/Registered

Newly Licensed Speech Pathologists

Upon review Ms. Mills made a motion seconded by Mr. Morton to approve the following newly licensed Speech Language Pathologist. The motion carried.

6969 Adams, Courtney	6773 Gunkel, Katie
6858 Ashley, Ellen	6956 Hall, Katherine
6569 Baker, Leah	6905 Harris, Laura
6604 Been, Hannah	6828 Hensley, Pauline
6964 Bettencourt, Julie	6897 Herman, Laura
6898 Bhones, Nikki	6829 Herold, Cindy
6971 Brannon, Caroline	6924 Hooten, Erin
6882 Burkeen, Lisa	6887 Hudson, Shavonia
6493 Burns, Emily	6602 Jahandarfarid, Hannah
6932 Buttrey, Denny	6879 Jeffers, Melenia
6620 Carpenter, Cassandra	6936 Jenkins, Caroline
6965 Chan, Olivia	6533 Jones, Elizabeth
6505 Clark, Christine	6954 Joyner, Ashley
6519 Compton, Jordan	6324 Kearney, Isabella
6855 Eilers, Laura	6522 Lillegard, Sigrid
6981 Eisenhower, Denise	6594 Madden, Caroline
6476 Flynn, Olivia	6951 Morrissey, Alyssa
6635 Fulkerson, Henley	6922 Morton, Ian
5106 Gabriel, Anna-Carol	6852 Nanto, Stephanie
6903 Gawthrop, Samantha	6943 Pederson, Katharine
6624 Goodman, Christopher	6535 Pies, Jordan
6585Gowin, Caroline	6640 Pousson, Julee

6968 Quintero, Catherine
6591 Rae, Rebecca
6630 Reed, Elisha
6872 Richman, Cara
6893 Rico, Ashley
6642 Robertson, Alexandra
6944 Rossen, Lindsey
6878 Roswall, Elizabeth
6854 Roy, Zaynee
6582 Schuitema, Travis
6614 Schweikhard, Ashley
6972 Secora, Kristen
6318 Sewell, Sara
6622 Sharp, Shelby
6580 Shields, Sadie
6915 Siddiqui, Susan
6947 Sisskin, Vivian

6613 Smith, Danielle
6962 Smith, Kaili
6896 Stinnett, Suzanne
6961 Taylor, Diana
6892 Taylor, Morgan
6836 Tibbs, Carmen
6540 Tubbs, Hannah
6909 Tyler, Ashley
1591 Warren, Allison
6410 Webb, Anne
6977 White, Lisa
6616 Williams, Kayla
6926 Winter, Tracy
6632 Wnek, Kailyn
6949 Wojcik, Megan
6960 Yelverton, Andrea

Newly Licensed Audiologists

Upon review Mr. Morton made a motion seconded by Ms. Crittendon, to approve the following newly licensed Audiologist. The motion carried.

1917 Bushur, Thomas
1959 Dumanch, Kelsey
1960 Glaze, Rachel
1928 Gyger, Meryl
1894 Lyon, Taylor

1956 Pena, Kristen
1886 Pizappi, Nicole
1876 Rutherford, Alicia
1904 Thompson, Emily
1937 White, Elizabeth

Newly Registered Speech Language Pathologist Assistants

Upon review Mr. Morton made a motion seconded by Ms. Starr, to approve the following newly registered Speech Language Pathology Assistance. The motion carried.

605 Barajas, Emily
440 Bassyouni, Danna
602 Black, Laura
597 Coey, Laine
601 Decker, Beverly
606 Kuhl, Rhyan
595 Lanclos, Jamie

600 Miller, Emily
608 Minton, Sydney
598 Phillips, Emma
599 Poole, Emily
596 Woliver, Natalie

Reinstatements

Speech Pathologist Reinstatements

Upon review Mr. Morton made a motion to ratify the reinstatements of the following Speech Pathologists seconded by Ms. Mills. The motion carried.

3637 Adams, Garlan
5358 Adlin, Stephanie

1757 Aldrich, Sherry
1084 Bridges, Teresa

3284 Canovan, Brooke
4729 Carper, Lynn
3920 Chester, Courtney
6216 Etheridge, Elizabeth
1712 Green, Kimberly
4844 Grower, Julie

3054 Hampton, Kimberly
3436 Hulen, Shannon
5615 Long, Lucy
5068 Stojasavlevich, Kelly
5497 Stouffer, Cheryl
3867 Yocom, Adrian

Correspondence

A letter from Angela Huffman was presented to the board. In her letter Ms. Huffman stated that the Franklin County Schools have asked their SLT's (bachelor level Speech Language Teachers) to become licensed as Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLP-A) so that more Medicaid billing can be accomplished. After looking through the SLP-A practice guidelines Ms. Huffman and her colleges became concerned as to how they can manage supervision expectations and IEP meeting requirements; per their interpretation of the rules SLP-A's can basically only do therapy under the guidance of an Speech Language Pathologist (SLP). The County has told them "because SLT's were hired as Speech Language TEACHERS, they would adhere to the standards of an SLT and not an SLP'A." Ms. Huffman states "This is very confusing to us and we absolutely need clarification so that our licenses are not in any Jeopardy."

After some discussion to determine the difference between a Speech Language Pathology Assistant and a Speech Language Teacher Ms. Fine advised the board that it does not have the power to issue advisory rulings, therefore the board cannot say whether or not they would be violating rules. OGC's advice to the board would be to require them to follow your rules and do what is necessary. If they are licensed as an SLP-A, the Statute requires those SLP-A's to be supervised and allows for discipline of both the supervisors and the Speech Language Pathology Assistant. The board could choose to amend their rules if that is something you wish to do. Mr. Morton reminded the Board that when this came up previously no one was inclined to change the rules, and he was not so inclined to change them now. The Board agreed and chose to take no action on the letter.

Rule Making

Ms. Fine proposed several minor changes to the rules. A discussion was held. The Board voted by Roll Call to approve all the changes as written and sends them to internal review and Rulemaking.

New Business

Susan Ussery from the Department of Education approached the podium to ask if it was possible for the Board to meet with members of the Board of Education to consider alignment of some of their rules between both departments for consistency across the board. This would make it easier on those who carry both the Health Board License and a teaching license. Ms. Buehler suggested that they request to be put on the agenda at the next meeting to fully discuss the matter.

Adjournment

With no other Board business to conduct, Mr. Morton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Starr to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Ratified by the Board February 11 2020